

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 37

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Holiday closures

In observance of Columbus Day, the following Aviano organizations are closed or have limited hours:

■ 31st Medical Group- closed Monday. Extended care hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the family practice clinic in Area One. To obtain an appointment call Ext. 5000. For emergencies, visit the Pordenone Hospital or the nearest emergency room. For life-threatening emergencies call 118.

■ Passenger terminal- closed Saturday through Monday.

### Promotions

The following majors have been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

■ Michael Day, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

■ Brian Elliot, 510th Fighter Squadron

■ Dana James, 31st Medical Group

■ Thomas Klopotek, 31st Operations Support Squadron

■ Lance Landrum, 510th FS

■ James Lee, 555th Fighter Squadron

■ Mason Pigue, 31st Services Squadron

■ Drexel Sherman, 31st OSS

■ Kenneth Williams, 31st Medical Operations Squadron



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

### CFC kicks off

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, kicks off the Combined Federal Campaign season by signing his donation form. The overseas CFC campaign runs six consecutive weeks through Dec. 15. Those interested in donating to a charity through the CFC can call their unit CFC representative.

## Firefighters blaze through training

By Airman 1st Class

**Sarah Gregory**

*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Airmen with the 31st Aviano Fire Emergency Services flight recently traveled to Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, Italy to gain live firefighting experience.

"The primary goals of the training were to ensure our firefighters experience the heat, learn proper techniques in applying extinguishing agent and to enhance team-

work in order to save lives and the multi-million dollar assets they protect," said Bryant Nicodemus, assistant chief of fire prevention.

During the training sessions, each firefighter experienced more than 1,000 degree heat as they extinguished simulated aircraft fires ranging from engine and interior cargo fires to a fully engulfed aircraft fire.

"They returned to duty with a better understanding of aircraft fire behavior and

**See Fire, Page 7**

**Veterinary Clinic:** The clinic is closed today through Monday. For more information, call Ext. 8485.

### 31st FW Sortie Board

**sortie:** n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	206.8	143
	+188.3	+24

Information current as of Thursday.



### Ski accident

Don't try this at home - one Aviano member learned a painful ski lesson and survived to tell his story.

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### Bazaar

Aviano members didn't have to travel far for merchandise. Vendors throughout the world visited Aviano selling their goods.

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## Commander's Corner

**By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates**  
*31st Fighter Wing commander*

**W**orld's Finest - Well, I've finally had time to catch my breath - physically and mentally - after an extremely sad and trying week. I never thought I'd have to say goodbye to my Italian counterpart and good friend Brig. Gen. Rosario Scarpolini.

Scarpo and I knew each other for only four months, but in that time the feelings ran very deep. He taught me about Italian customs and courtesies, food and wine and even took me up flying one morning at Comina Airport. I've never met a warmer, more caring or capable person. He cared for his family, his country and his air force ... and it showed.

He cared for the U.S. Air Force and 31st Fighter Wing ... and it showed. He attended the wing staff meeting every week; he and I would talk almost every day, and I would often just drop in on him for a coffee. I will miss my friend Rosario and Aviano will miss Rosario. On behalf of us all, I say goodbye but not farewell ... for I hope to one day meet with my friend again. And I know many others from the local community, Italian and American, will join with me in taking care of the Scarpolini family.

While it is true that we have lost a great friend, it is likewise true that we have gained another - Col. Roberto Sardo, our new ITAF Commander. Colonel Sardo is a wonderful person, extremely competent officer and superior commander. He and I worked together last week with many others right up to General Foglesong and General Tricarico to ensure we provided a fitting tribute to our fallen comrade. This difficult time brought us all together and the poignant experience will make us more effective when working together in the future.

On now to some business. First, welcome home to our AEF-5/6 returning deployers and welcome back to work to most of you. Each of you did us proud 'over yonder' - we are grateful for your service, look forward to working with you here and know you will join us on the path to excellence here. We also want to wish 'all the best' to our recent AEF-7/8 deployers. You started strong out of the chocks and we're

certain you will continue to show that you are the "World's Finest."

Now a few words for our spouses. This Wednesday we held two deployed spouses meetings at the Community Center. Each session was well attended and the questions asked and issues raised illustrated the need for such a forum. We will continue hosting these every other month (next will be in December) and begin hosting monthly deployed spouses meals at the La Dolce Vita Dining Facility. The first such meal will be 6 p.m. Oct. 26. The food and company is absolutely free. You won't have to cook, pay, wash dishes, serve or clean up afterward. Just show up, and we'll take care of everything! Please get the word out on this important event ... and look forward to seeing our deployed spouses and their families!

Finally, time to sign off. Congratulations to our nine new Lt. Col. Selects - Michael Day, Mason Pigue, Lance Landrum, Brian Elliot, James Lee, Thomas Klopotek, Drexel Sherman, Dana James, and Kenneth Williams. Well done, well deserved, congrats to each of you and your families. We're proud of you! Well, enjoy the weekend, don't drink and drive, take care of yourselves, your wingmen and your families. I'll see each of y'all around the World's Finest ranch next week!



**O**n behalf of Mrs. Daniela Scarpolini and her children, Davide and Giulia, I wish to express special thanks to all the men and women of Aviano for their deeply felt sympathy and warm participation in Colonel Scarpolini's funeral service last Saturday. We all feel we lost a good friend and a great comrade.

Sincerely,

Col. Roberto Sardo  
Commander  
Pagliano e Gori Airport.



Brig. Gen. Robert Yates presents a wing coin to Staff Sgt. Kariena Hires after she spent the day as his shadow.

### Aviano Airman of the Week

**Name:** Staff Sgt. Kariena Hires

**Unit:** 31st Services Squadron

**Hometown:** Springtown, Texas

**Why joined:** For the travel and education opportunities.

**Accomplishments:** "One of the reasons Staff Sgt. Hires was selected for the shadow Airman program was because she has proven to the 31st Services Squadron to be a great leader. Her professionalism and dedication to the Air Force core value 'service before self' places her above and beyond her peers," said Master Sgt. Warren Baker, 31st SVS.

## 21 Aviano Airmen receive courts-martial in 2005

### Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office

*The U.S. military justice system's purpose is to strengthen national security through upholding justice and fairness, maintaining of good order and discipline and promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of our fighting force. This transparent system protects the rights of military members and provides commanders the tools to maintain good order and discipline. It is a commander-driven system designed to hold military members accountable for their actions, while at the same time protecting the rights of individuals.*

*Allegations are thoroughly investigated and commanders review the circumstances, facts and evidence before determining how a case should be handled. Just because a military member is charged with an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not mean the individual committed a crime — it only dictates the forum in which the case will be heard. The determination of whether a military member is guilty and the appropriate sentence is made by a panel of impartial court members or an impartial military judge.*

*Court members and military judges, in some cases, serve as the voice of the military community. Military members are provided the same, and sometimes more rights than civilian counterparts. One of these rights, for example, is representation by an area defense counsel.*

*Aviano court members and military judges have heard 21 cases in 2005. Each case was decided on individual merit, evidence and fact consideration. For more information, contact the legal office at Ext. 7843.*

**Jan. 6** – A 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron senior airman was tried for wrongful use of cocaine. The senior airman pled guilty in a special court-martial and was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge and a reduction in grade to E-1.

**Jan. 7** – A 31st Security Forces Squadron airman 1st class was tried for wrongful use of hashish, assault and failure to obey an order. The accused pled guilty to failure to obey an order and a summary court officer found the accused not guilty of hashish use, but guilty of the lesser offense of hashish possession. The court sentenced the accused to forfeit two-thirds pay for 27 days, 27 days confinement and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Jan. 7** – A 31st SFS airman 1st class was tried for wrongful use of hashish, false official statement and failure to obey an order. A summary court officer found the accused not guilty of hashish use, but guilty of the lesser offense of hashish possession and guilty of a false official statement and failure to obey an order. The court sentenced the accused to forfeit two-thirds pay for 30 days, 30 days confinement and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Jan. 10** – A 603rd Air Control Squadron senior airman was tried for attempting to possess cocaine, conspiracy to possess cocaine, and wrongful use, distribution and possession of cocaine. The charges of conspiracy to possess cocaine and possession of cocaine were withdrawn and the accused pled guilty to attempting to possess cocaine, use of cocaine, and distribution of cocaine. A general court-martial consisting of a military judge sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, 15 months confinement and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Jan. 27** – A 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron senior airman was tried for wrong-

ful distribution, possession and use of cocaine and wrongful distribution and use of marijuana. The accused pled guilty to all charges. A general court-martial consisting of a military judge sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, 18 months confinement, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Feb. 4** – A 31st AMXS senior airman was tried for dereliction of duty based on driving on revoked privileges. A special court-martial consisting of officer and enlisted members determined that the evidence was insufficient and found the accused not guilty.

**Feb. 16** – A 31st AMXS technical sergeant was tried for possession of child pornography and manufacturing child pornography. The accused pled guilty to possessing child pornography. A general court-martial consisting of officer and enlisted members found the accused guilty of the remaining charge and sentenced the accused to a dishonorable discharge, six years confinement, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Feb. 22** – A 31st AMXS senior airman was tried for conspiracy to possess and/or use of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of mushrooms, wrongful possession of seeds containing marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana in hashish form and communicating a threat. The accused pled not guilty to possessing marijuana in hashish form and communicating a threat. The accused pled guilty to the remainder of charges. The charge of wrongful possession of marijuana in the hashish form was withdrawn and a special court-martial consisting of a military judge found the accused not guilty of communicating a threat and sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for 10 months, 10 months confinement and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**March 10** – A 31st Maintenance Squadron senior airman was tried for conspiracy to use/possess marijuana, use of marijuana and mushrooms, possession of mushrooms. The accused pled guilty to these charges. A special court-martial consisting of officer members sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, reduction to E-1, and a \$5,000 fine.

**April 7** – A 31st LRS senior airman was tried for wrongful use of cocaine. A special court-martial consisting of officer and enlisted members determined that the evidence was insufficient and found the accused not guilty.

**April 9** – A 31st AMXS senior airman was tried for use and possession of marijuana, disrespect towards an NCO, drunk driving, and provoking speech. The accused pled guilty to use and possession of marijuana, and drunk driving. A special court-martial consisting of a military judge found the accused not guilty of provoking speech and guilty of disrespect to an NCO and sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for nine months, nine months confinement and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**April 13** – A 31st AMXS senior airman was tried for wrongful use of cocaine, attempt to possess cocaine, adultery, failure to obey an order, assault, and sodomy. The accused pled guilty to use of cocaine, adultery, and failure to obey an order. A general court martial consisting of officer members found the accused not guilty of attempt to possess cocaine and guilty of assault and sodomy and sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, nine months confinement, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**April 14** – A 31st Maintenance Operation

Squadron senior airman was tried for wrongful use of cocaine. The accused pled guilty to the charge. A special court-martial consisting of officer members sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**April 15** – A 31st SFS senior airman was tried for drunk driving. The accused pled guilty to the charge. A summary court officer sentenced the accused to 24 days confinement and reduction to the grade of E-2.

**June 23** – A 31st Communications Squadron senior airman was tried for wrongful use of cocaine. A special court-martial consisting of officer and enlisted members determined that the evidence was insufficient and found the accused not guilty.

**June 24** – A 31st Civil Engineer Squadron airman 1st class was tried for absence without leave, failure to go, failure to obey an order, false official statement, larceny, burglary, unlawful entry and housebreaking. The accused pled guilty with minor exceptions to AWOL, failure to go, failure to obey an order and unlawful entry. The accused pled not guilty to one specification and pled guilty to the lesser offense of wrongful appropriation to two more specifications of the 12 specifications of larceny. The specification to which the accused pled not guilty was withdrawn. The accused pled guilty with minor exceptions to five of the seven specifications of housebreaking and guilty to the lesser offense of unlawful entry for the other two specifications. The charge of burglary was also withdrawn. A general court-martial consisting of a military judge sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for 30 months and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**July 7** – A 31st SFS airman was tried for drunk driving. The accused pled guilty to the charge. A summary court officer sentenced the accused to confinement for 15 days, 10 days hard labor without confinement and reduction to E-1.

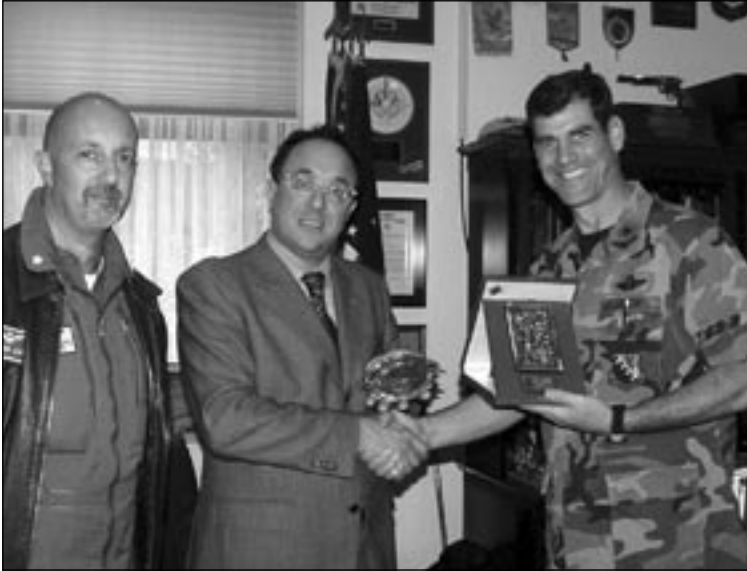
**Aug. 1** – A 603rd ACS technical sergeant was tried for two specifications of rape, failure to obey an order and failure to go. A general court-martial consisting of officer and enlisted members found the accused guilty of all charges and sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for eight years and reduction to E-1.

**Aug. 1** – A 31st SFS airman was tried for credit card larceny. The accused pled guilty to the charge. A special court-martial consisting of a military judge sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for two months, confinement for two months and reduction to the grade of E-1.

**Aug. 23** – A 31st MXS airman basic was tried for NATO Forces Italy gas coupons larceny, making a false official statement and selling stolen property. The accused pled guilty to larceny, attempted larceny and one of the two specifications of false official statement. The other specification of false official statement and the charge for selling stolen property was withdrawn. A special court-martial consisting of a military judge sentenced the accused to three months confinement, \$1,000 fine and to be confined until the fine is paid, but not for more than one month and restriction to Aviano AB for two months.

**Sept. 22** – A 31st CS senior airman was tried for drunk driving. The accused pled guilty to the charge. A summary court officer sentenced the accused to forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for one month, confinement for 20 days and reduction to E-1.





Chris Diaz

## Gift exchange

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander (right), exchanges gifts with Agatino Carrolo, the new Pordenone firefighters commander (middle). Col. Roberto Sardo, Italian air force commander (left), witnesses the presentation Wednesday in General Yates' office.

## Fire, from page 1

the tactics involved in extinguishing aircraft fires as quickly as possible," said Mr. Nicodemus.

As a new arrival at Aviano fresh from technical training at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Airman 1st Class Andrew Sanchez jumped at the chance for training.

"The training helped me learn better techniques, specifically for working with aircraft," he said. "It also gave us the opportunity to learn more about the team and to trust each other. When you are in those situations, you don't have a lot of time to debate; you have to just react and trust your partner."

Just like the differences between grease and electrical fires, there are differences in the way various aircraft materials burn.

"It might be a wheel, brake or cockpit fire they are dealing with so firefighters have to know about the different materials, how they burn and what can be used to extinguish each type effectively," explained Mr. Nicodemus.

Air Force firefighters are required to do live burns every six months to stay current with

their certification. Since Aviano's training facility is in the middle of upgrades, the facility in Sigonella is currently the only one available in Europe.

"The aircraft fire simulator is a mobile unit using 400 gallons of propane; enough to raise the fire's temperature to over 1,000 degrees," explained Mr. Nicodemus.

The Navy's mobile unit is equipped with safety features such as temperature and gas sensors and emergency shut-down switches. The three simulator operators communicate using the unit's voice activated intercom system.

"Safety is paramount before, during and after each fire simulation," said Mr. Nicodemus.

In addition to working with live fires, firefighters must also maintain proficiency in several other areas.

Another specific certification Air Force firefighters have to obtain is HAZMAT operations, which requires them to learn the defensive measures used to prevent escalation of contamination, said Mr. Nicodemus. Firefighters are also expected to become proficient in driver op-



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

## Lending a hand

Aviano's American Red Cross representative, Cassandra Wyatt, receives a check from Renzo Liva, Mayor of Roveredo, Sept. 30 for hurricane relief efforts. The mayor said the United States helped with earthquake relief in Italy in 1976 and he's returning the favor.

## Haunted Happenings

**Volunteers** - Volunteers are needed to help build the Haunted House. Work will continue on the house until Oct. 28. For more information, call Ext. 5479 or e-mail Airman Nathan Carpenter at [nathan.carpenter@aviano.af.mil](mailto:nathan.carpenter@aviano.af.mil). Volunteers are also needed to hand out candy for Trunk and Treat Oct. 29. To volunteer, visit the Community Center or Youth Center.

**A good scare if you dare** - The teen center is hosting a "Scary Movie Night" 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 31. Parental permission is needed and the event is free.

**Monster movie marathon** - Teenagers can watch scary movies playing continuously Oct. 29-31 in the base library.

**Spooky tales time** - Moms and dads can dress their little goblins in halloween costumes and bring them to the library from 10-11 a.m. Oct. 31 for a spooky story hour.

# Take it from him - downhill skiing is no joke

By Airman 1st Class

**Sarah Gregory**

*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Skiing, especially for first timers, can be a painful experience. Trying to keep your legs straight and skis from crossing while staying upright and hurtling down the side of a mountain can be challenging. Unless of course you're one of those blessed athletic people.

One Aviano member was painfully reminded of the difficulties last winter when he suffered a major injury on the runs of Piancavallo. After a day of hitting the slopes, Raymond Deck, 31st Mission Support Group, attempted a jump and fell, seriously injuring himself.

"I had been skiing since I first arrived here," said Ray. "Last year was my second season. During my first ski season, I felt I was extremely successful because I graduated from the bunny slopes to the medium-level blue slopes."

Like many successful people, Ray set objectives for himself.

"My goal was to be a good red slope skier and even attempt some of the black slopes by the end of the 2004-05 ski year."

For all the non-skiers out there, ski runs are usually graded on their difficulty level by using a color. Green is used for the easier, flatter trails; blue is a middle-level and red and black is the steepest slopes.

On the day of the accident Ray had gone skiing with two of his children, Joshua, 11, and Michael, 9.

"Originally I was going to take snowboarding lessons from my oldest son Jordan, but he was sick that day and couldn't go. I remember feeling relieved because I was sure if I went snowboarding I would injure myself."

Although the Deck family began learning to ski at the same time, it soon became apparent to Ray that his kids surpassed him. "It was amazing to me that my children could ski better than I could. My kids' goal was speed and mine was to learn better technique."

That particular day in March, Ray and his younger sons were enjoying some leisure time at Piancavallo.

"We were having a great day. My kids, when they aren't going down the hill as fast as they can, like to ski the trails on the sides of the slopes," Ray said. "The sides have little banks and the more adventurous skiers cut trails through them. Usually, I stick to the center because that's where I feel most comfortable and my balance isn't as good as theirs."

After watching his kids for some time, Ray began to join in.

"I started very gradually doing some of



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Ray Deck poses with his X-ray and crutches after spending a month laying on his back due to a ski injury in March.

the moves they were doing. I fell down a couple of times, but I was getting better, so I thought, 'Hey, I'm improving.'"

As the family got close to the bottom of the mountain, they talked about heading home.

"The accident happened on what was literally the very last run of the day on a blue slope," he said. "There is a road that veers off to the left of the trail. People can ski down the road to the parking lot. Our plan was to get on that road, ski to where our car was parked and drive home."

Or at least, that was the plan.

"There's a difference in elevation where the road begins and the trail continues. We decided to try to jump it since we'd been doing similar stuff all day," Ray said. "Michael went first - he jumped about a foot, fell down and crashed. He got up and continued on. Joshua went next and then me.

"As I approached I realized I was going too fast. I hit the slope wrong; my center of gravity was behind my feet. My

feet went up and the next thing I saw was sky and ski; my skis were above my head. I had fallen on my back and felt this horrible pain. I thought 'It's either broken or it's a bad muscle sprain.' I was leaning toward the positive and hoped for just a bad muscle sprain. I laid there for about five minutes while the people on the overhead ski lift laughed at me."

After getting to his feet, Ray managed to ski to his car where he had someone help him take off his skis and boots.

"The whole time, my firm resolve that this was just a sprained muscle was fading because I was really hurting. This very nice lady, who had to have been an angel, helped me get into the car. I couldn't even lift my right leg."

After driving about halfway down the mountain, Ray realized something was seriously wrong. He managed to call his wife Ruth, who took him to the Pordenone hospital.

"If you break a bone skiing, Italy is the place to do it, because they are completely familiar with how to take care of you. They knew right where to look when I came in," he said.

After a brief X-ray the Deck family received the news - he had broken his pelvis and would need to stay in bed for 30 days.

"I had to lie on my back for one month; I could only roll in one direction. Thirty-three 'wonderful' days in bed - my family completely changed everything. They put the bed in the family room where I could be around them and every single night I had to take a shot to prevent blood clots."

After about two weeks the pain left, but he still had to lay there.

"Once they gave me clearance I was okay to move, I was out of that bed! The first time I stood up I promptly fell over. My head hadn't been over my shoulders for more than 30 days, so I had to sit in my recliner chair for two hours going from the fully reclined to the sitting up position to get my body ready to stand up again."

After spending months recovering from his injury and gaining his strength back, Ray knows he was lucky it wasn't worse.

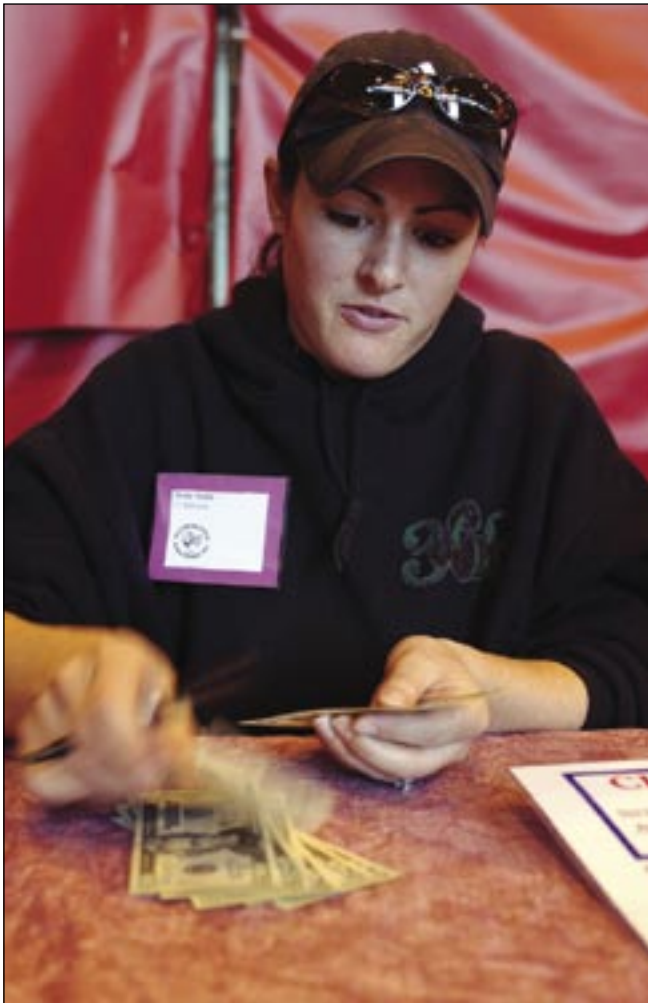
"I lost time at work and with my family but I am healthy now and with the help of a strength-building regime I'm getting back into shape."

For all those crazy dare-devils out there, perched on the edge of a vertical slope, remember Ray Deck.

"My advice for first-time skiers is to know your limitations - ski with people who can mentor you. I'll be a little bit smarter the next time around. Skiing is a wonderful sport and my accident wasn't caused by skiing, but by me forgetting I'm not a 9-year old boy."



# 2005 Bella Befana Bazaar



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti



**Above:** The Bella Befana Bazaar featured tax-free merchandise from 16 countries.

**Left:** Molly Nehls, 31st Services Squadron, volunteers at the bazaar as a check cashier. Aviano shoppers visited the bazaar in Hangars One, Two, Three and the washrack Sept. 30 through







Airman Nathan J. Doza

andise from 100 ven-

the Bella Befana Ba-  
which was located in  
gh Sunday.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

**Above:** Staff Sgt. Anthony Frank, 31st Security Forces Squadron, marinates a chicken leg. Sergeant Frank volunteered to serve food to hungry bazaar shoppers through Aviano's 5/6 organization.

**Left:** The annual Bella Befana Bazaar was held at Aviano courtesy of the Aviano Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club. The bazaar was open to all NATO ID card and U.S. passport holders.

## Celebrating heritage

Hispanic American Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15. Events include a recipe book and banquet ticket sale 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday at the base exchange, crafts at the Community Center 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday and a banquet 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at La Bella Vista. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sonora Vasquez at Ext. 7982 or Staff Sgt. Adriana Obregon at Ext. 5018.

## Tops in Blue

The Air Force musical entertainment troupe is scheduled to perform 7 p.m. Oct. 15 and 3 p.m. Oct. 16 in Hangar One. The show is free and all local nationals are invited to attend the Oct. 15 show. Local nationals planning to attend need to reserve a seat by calling Ext. 7555.

## Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University provides reimbursement upon successful completion of the oral/practical, general, airframe and powerplant exams. The uni-

versity is also accepting registration for the powerplant turbine course beginning Monday and physics classes Oct. 15. Classes are condensed and students can register until the first day of class. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

## Back to school

The University of Maryland University College Term Two registration begins Tuesday for active duty members and Thursday for civilians and spouses. For more information, call Ext. 5365, visit [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu) or stop by the UMUC office in Area One to pick up a copy of the schedule. Term Two on-site classes run from Oct. 24 through Dec. 17, and online Term Two distance education courses run from Oct. 31 to Jan. 29.

## Communication tips

Family Advocacy hosts a four-part couples communication class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and continuing Oct. 18, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. The classes take place at Family Advocacy, Bldg. 108, in the second floor con-

ference room. Call Ext. 5667 for more information.

## La Leche League

Due to Columbus Day, the La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. Oct. 17 in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg 168 in Area One. The group welcomes pregnant and breastfeeding women. The informal topic of discussion will be "Why breastfeed your baby?" Babies and children are always welcome at meetings. LLL provides information and support on all aspects of breastfeeding. For questions call 348-242-5373 or e-mail [LLLAviano@yahoo.com](mailto:LLLAviano@yahoo.com).

## PT guidance

The Air Force has issued guidance for the wear of headphones while in the official physical training uniform. Airmen dressed in the PT uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities. Headphones aren't authorized while in formation, during organized unit physical training sessions or in performance of official duties. For more information, Aviano Airmen can call their commander's support staff.

## Author's visit

The Aviano Elementary School Parent Teacher Association is hosting best-selling children's author, Michael Sampson for a "meet and greet" 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 17 in the multi-purpose room. The session includes question and answers with the students and an autograph session for students, teachers and parents.

## Office education

All officers applying for tuition assistance must now use the On-Line TA Program. The Education Office will no longer process these requests in the office. With the exception of officers who are interested in a bachelor's degree in foreign languages, active duty service commitments will automatically be updated by Air Force Personnel Center once the tuition assistance request

has been approved. For more information, call the education office at Ext. 5330.

## Cub scouts

Aviano Cub Scouts is registering new scouts within their respective dens. Boys from first through fifth grade are assigned to dens based on age and grade in school. Cub Scouts of America prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices. Several fall activities have already been planned in addition to weekly meetings held by each den. For more information, e-mail Rich Tangen at [Richard.Tangen@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Richard.Tangen@aviano.af.mil).

## Appreciation day

The Global Credit Union is hosting its member appreciation day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 19. The event includes free refreshments, prizes and child identification kits to the first 50 children.

## Native-American

November is Native American Heritage Month. Anyone interested in being a part of the committee can call Tech. Sgt. Fawn Runs After at Ext. 4418 or Staff Sgt. Jerry Pierson at Ext. 4346.

## Overseas study

The Air Force is offering the opportunity for graduate study overseas to line officers through the Olmsted Scholar Program. Those selected will begin study for the 2006-2007 school year. Applicants must be an active duty line officer with between three and 11 years of commissioned service and no more than 11 years total service by April 1, 2006.

All applications must arrive by Nov. 18 and should be sent to: HQ AFPC/DPAFE, 550 C Street West, Ste. 36, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4734. Application procedures can be obtained from the officer developmental education Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/fdso/Olmsted.htm>. For more information, visit the Olmsted Foundation Web site at [www.olmstedfoundation.org](http://www.olmstedfoundation.org).

## Reel Times

**Today, 5 p.m.** - "Valiant" Rated G - A lowly wood pigeon named Valiant overcomes his small size to become a hero in Great Britain's Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service during World War II. Animated

**Today, 8 p.m.** - "Must Love Dogs" Rated PG-13 A divorced preschool teacher has sworn off dating after a bad breakup. Her sister places a personal ad for her declaring that anyone answering it "must love dogs." Starring: Diane Lane, John Cusack

**Saturday, 2 p.m.** - "Must Love Dogs" Rated PG-13

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "Valiant" Rated G

**Sunday, 2 p.m.** - "Valiant" Rated G

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo" Rated R - Deuce Bigalow is back to his unlikely pleasure-for-pay profession. Starring: Rob Schneider, Eddie Griffin

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo" Rated R

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Must Love Dogs" Rated PG-13

**Friday, 5 p.m.** - "The Dukes of Hazzard" Rated PG-13 - Bo and Luke Duke, with the help of their cousin Daisy and Uncle Jesse, try to save the family farm from Boss Hogg. Starring: Seann William Scott, Jessica Simpson

**Friday, 8 p.m.** - "The Cave" Rated PG-13 - A rescue team is sent down into the world's largest cave system to try to find the spelunkers who first explored its depths. Starring: Morris Chestnut, Eddie Cibrian (*Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.*)



## Fly Bys

### Local area events

**Through October** - A butterfly exhibit in Bordano. Visit [www.cosetur.com](http://www.cosetur.com) for more information.

**Sunday** - The 37th Annual Sailing Race La Barcolana in the Gulf of Trieste.

**Wednesday - 28** - The white truffle festival in Alba. These mushrooms are more costly by weight than gold.

**Oct. 15 - 23** - The Chocolate Revolution in Perugia. Visit [www.eurochocolate.com](http://www.eurochocolate.com) for more information.

**Oct. 16 - 17** - The "Incontriamoci a Pordenone" or the "Let's meet in Pordenone" festival featuring shows, concerts and special events in the streets and squares of the town.

### Baby, let's cruise

Information, Tickets and Tours and SATO invites Aviano members to a cruise event 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19 in the base exchange mall. The event gives travelers the opportunity to learn more about one of the world's most popular vacations: cruising. Door prizes, exclusive offers and special discounts are available. Learn about different cruise lines, ships, destinations, departure ports, value, cruise styles and activities.

### Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe.

# Salzburg: The city of music

**By Airman 1st Class**

**Sarah Gregory**

*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

**B**est known as the setting for "The Sound of Music" and the birthplace of Mozart, Salzburg, Austria is a charming, picturesque city to visit.

The city of Salzburg is wedged between the pre-Alps and the Salzach River. The gentle, wide river splits the city into the old and new sections of town. Salzburg itself is an extremely easy city to explore; it's compact, the streets are wide and clean and the main train station is located near the center of town.

Situated about four hours north of Aviano, the trip up takes you through rolling green mountains studded with houses built about half-way up to catch the most of the day's sun. The weather is beautiful and temperate from early April to late October. In the last few years, the Oktoberfest in Munich has spilled over and Salzburg has begun hosting its own version of the festival in September.

Once there, visitors have many options to choose from when deciding what to do.

One good place to see is the Hohensalzburg Fortress, one of the largest and best preserved European fortresses from the medieval era. Visitors can access the castle using an all-in-one ticket that costs €9.60 for adults and €5.50 for children ages 5 through 19. The price includes a round-trip journey on the new funicular, or lift, which brings guests to the top in about a minute. If you are feeling more energetic you can reach the castle by foot. Views from the top are spectacular; exposing the whole city. There is also a museum and a restaurant at the top.

After you come down from the fortress, wander into the Getreidegasse, the commercial center of the city. Here, visitors can browse through the wide variety of shops, seeing everything from modern fashion to delectable chocolate shops selling the local



Courtesy photo

Salzburg is proud of its musical history. All over town there are places marked on the pavement where visitors can stop to hear Mozart being played.

specialty – chocolate and marzipan. There is a beautiful Christmas shop with hand-painted ornaments and wonderful decorations. Cozy street-side cafes and restaurants abound here and offer traditional Austrian cuisine like Weinersnitzel and sauerkraut with boiled potatoes. If you don't understand the menu, don't worry – many locals speak English very well.

After grabbing a bite to eat, it's nice to take a walk down to the river to stretch your legs and escape the lure of the shops. Several large footbridges make it easy to cross over into the new section of town.

Once in the newer part of town, a must-see sight is Mirabell Palace, built in 1606 on behalf of Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich for his beloved Salome Alt. The palace serves as the government seat and the Marmorsaal, or Marble Hall, is considered one of the most beautiful wedding halls in the world. Surrounding the palace is Mirabell Gardens, which features many statues, fountains and cool, quiet places to sit and people watch.

All in all, Salzburg is an enchanting city with much to explore. No matter what season, it presents itself to visitors as a beautiful gift to be discovered again and again.

**Going places?:** Share a traveling experience! Tell us about it at [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Photos should be sent in jpeg format.



Courtesy photo

The Ponte Vecchio is one of the oldest bridges crossing the Arno river in **Florence**, Italy. It's also home to several gold shops.

## Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday- Wine tasting in the Friuli region
- Saturday - Croatia by boat
- Saturday - Castle Brando spa
- Oct. 15 - Guided Florence
- Oct. 15 - Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show
- Oct. 22 - Guided Salzburg and

The Sound of Music tour

- Oct. 22 - Pisa and Da Vinci museums

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

## USAFE second at championship

**By Tech. Sgt. Martie Moore**  
421st Air Base Squadron  
Public Affairs

The Component Command Air Headquarters Ramstein Swimming Championship was held Sept. 20-22 at RAF College Cranwell, England with the U.S. Air Force Europe team taking second place with 64 overall points.

The CC-Air Inter-Nation sports event is open to the Allied air forces of the Northern Region. The swimming contest included participants from the German Air Force Tactical Command, the Belgian Air Component, the Royal Netherlands air force, the Royal air force and USAFE.

Charles Toth, 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron occupational health element chief and men's swimming coach, broke his own record for the 50-meter Men's Freestyle with a time of 23.48.

"Well, to be honest, I was pretty surprised when I found out that I broke the record," Toth said. "The first time I broke the record, I was actually training to get into the World Class Athletic Program in September 2002 and my training was much more consistent. But this time I focused much more on weight training and adding strength to my strokes. I think that really benefited my swim, especially since I am a sprinter so every tenth of a second is critical."

The USAFE team gathered at training camp Sept. 14-19 at RAF Alconbury.

Due to their limited time to train, the team coaches depended on swimmers dedicating themselves to training prior to arriving at camp.

"With swimming, training is critical in the months leading up to the competition," Toth said. "We only did some limited sets to accelerate our heart rates and some limited hypoxic sets (breath control). Our main focus was finalizing the roster and working on our relay exchanges."

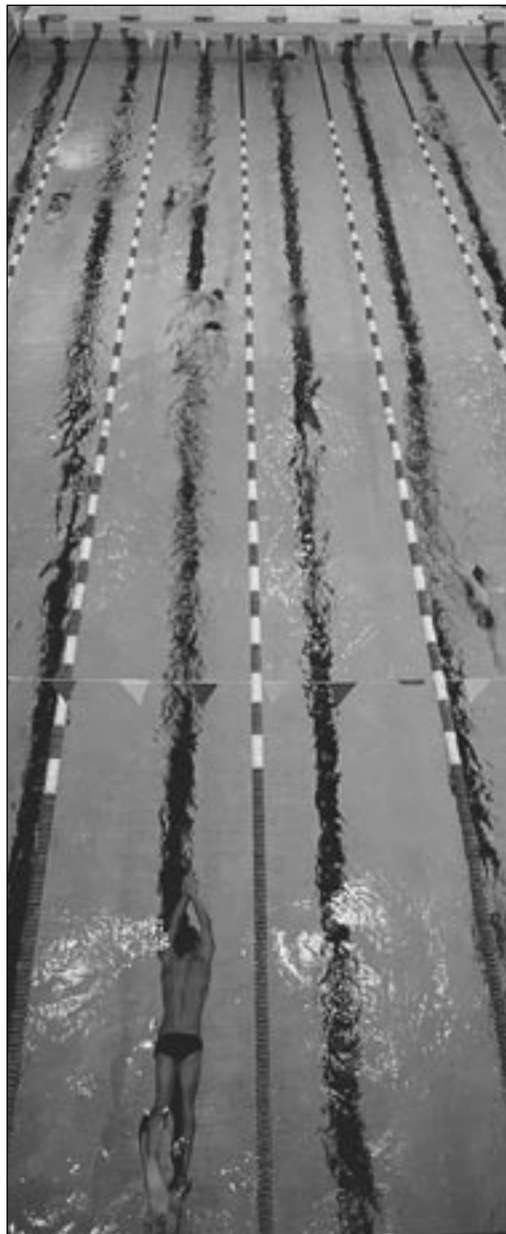
With swimmers coming from all over the world to join the team, the coaches had less than a week to determine how to get the most out of their lineup.

"During camp we had timed trials and I determined who is going to swim which event," said the women's coach Julie Freedman, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Although both the men's and women's team placed second to Germany, the USAFE team gave an impressive performance, according to Toth.

"Overall we did really well, but the Germans brought some really strong swimmers. They beat us this year and normally we [women's team] take first," said Freedman.

"Although swimming is primarily an individual sport, I believe that team camaraderie and a positive atmosphere are essential to suc-



Tech Sgt. Jeremy Lock

The USAFE swim team swims laps during their training camp Sept. 14-19 at RAF Alconbury.

cess," said Toth. "I try to emphasize cohesiveness and maximum participation during our 'sight-seeing' or down time. I believe that if the individuals are relaxed and comfortable, they will be more likely to perform at peak levels."

Another important aspect of the CC-Air Inter-Nation Sports events is the interaction between the countries participating.

"This year we were fortunate to play a 'friendly' game of water polo with the Dutch and the English," Toth said. "My favorite part about these experiences is the interaction with the military members from the other countries Belgium, England, Germany and Holland. It's great to form friendships and experience different cultures year in and year out."

## Fly Bys

### Basketball

People interested in participating in the 2005-2006 Intramural/Extramural basketball season can submit letters of intent to the Dragon Fitness Center by Oct. 27. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

### Football frenzy

La Bella Vista invites football fans to watch Monday Night Football, enjoy snacks and win prizes 5 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays. Call Ext. 4303 for more information.

### Technicians needed

Outdoor recreation seeks ski and snowboard technicians and a lawn mower / small engine person. To apply or for more information, call Ext. 8623.

### Outdoor Recreation

A special kid's day fishing derby is scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 15. Cost is \$5 per child.

A local area orientation hiking trip is scheduled for Oct. 22. The cost is \$10 and the deadline to sign up is Oct. 17. For more information on any of these trips, or to sign up, call Ext. 8623.

### Get golfing

- The Alpine Golf Course hosts a Scotch Doubles Nine-hole tournament Tuesday. The entry fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Prizes are awarded to the first players who sign up.

- A moonlight golf outing is 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 29. The \$18 entry fee includes a steak dinner and use of glow in the dark golf balls. For more information on these events, or to sign up, call Ext. 7386.

### Referees needed

The Aviano Officials Association is looking for high school football and volleyball officials for the upcoming season. Interested participants may call Joe Russo at 348-252-4885 or Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

# Don't be a dummy - buckle up

By Lt. Col. Andrian Pone  
31st Fighter Wing Safety Office

Every hour, at least one person in America dies because he or she did not buckle up. In fact, failure to wear seat belts contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety-related behavior. Last year more than 7,000 Americans died because they did not have their seat belt on, while 13,000 people were saved because they did.

Wearing your seat belt is the easiest thing you can do to save your life. Putting your belt on takes only a few seconds; make it part of your pre-drive routine. Most of us here buckle up all the time, but a few don't. Hopefully after reading this article everyone will.

Recently, my shop conducted a random seat belt check at the Area F main gate. Surprisingly, nearly 10 percent of the vehicles had at least one person without a seat belt on. I started asking the question, "Why is your seat belt not on?" The answers ranged from "I forgot" to "I was in a rush." All poor excuses. Not only did these individuals receive a ticket, they had an opportunity to explain it to their commander. But that's far better than dying.

Why should you wear a seat belt?

First, it will save your life, and second, it's the law. We know that driving a car is dangerous. In fact, more Americans between the ages of 1 and 34 die as a result of motor vehicle injuries than any other cause. The lifetime odds are 1-in-3 that you will be seriously injured in a traffic accident, and 1-in-100 that you will be killed. Wearing a seat belt will only increase your odds in surviving a vehicle accident.

For those who have experienced a car accident, they know it hurts. Simple physics makes the point; in a 50 mph crash, an occupant without a seatbelt is thrown with a force between 30 and 60 times his body weight. A 150-pound

person will feel force up to 9,000 pounds.

In many accidents there are two collisions. The first occurs when the car strikes an object and the second occurs when objects (such as occupants without seat belts) collide inside the car. When occupants collide inside the car or eject from the vehicle, death or injury frequently occurs. Wearing a seat belt will protect you from hitting the dash board or from being thrown outside the car. Without a seatbelt you are 10 times more likely to be ejected from the car - and most passengers ejected from cars die. If they survive ejection, they can be cut badly from going through the windshield.

Some people elect to not wear seat belts because they are afraid of dying in a car fire or underwater submersion. The truth is only 1 out of every 1,000 major vehicle wrecks result in death caused by fire or drowning. And if the person is conscious after the wreck (people are more likely to remain conscious if they have their seat belt on), they are more likely to escape the car and survive.

Even if you are driving a short distance make sure to buckle up. Safety-types know statistically most crashes occur within a few miles from home at 70 mph or less. Take the extra second to buckle-up. Slow-speed collisions can also be fatal ... unbelted occupants have been killed at parking lot speeds.

Wearing your seat belt is probably the easiest thing you can do to save your life. Make it a habit to buckle up before you drive. And if someone in your car is not wearing their seat belt, insist they do ... don't drive until they buckle up.

Imagine how you would feel if your buddy was killed in your car because he wasn't wearing his belt. Not wearing a seat belt is like playing full contact football without pads. Football players look cool wearing their pads, and drivers look cool wearing their seat belts.



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil) with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.



## Aviano's Hidden Heroes

Master Sgt. Don Knight, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, and his wife Colleen transformed the Airmen's Attic from a musty disorganized collection of unwanted items to a free community shopping experience, enhancing the entire community of Aviano. The Knights contributed more than 500 volunteers hours organizing, cleaning and donating overstock items to local charities.

Earlier this summer, Senior Airman Lacey Etherton volunteered to collect and deliver items for Operation Iraqi Child, which provided clothes, shoes and school supplies to needy children. Serving as secretary for Airmen Against Drunk Driving, Airman Etherton is responsible for sending out and updating the weekly schedule, for being the on-call officer once a month, assisting with AADD-related fundraisers and advertising the program with e-mail messages and radio spots on AFN.

